

RE: RELEASE: U.S. Rep. Lawrence Statement on Ambassador Bridge Blockade

From: "Maron, Stefano -WSHDC -WS" <stefano.maron@international.gc.ca>
To: "Connell, Christine -DTROT -GR" <christine.connell@international.gc.ca>
Date: Fri, 11 Feb 2022 19:41:06 +0000

Any news on the call with Sen Brown's office? They're following up.

From: Connell, Christine -DTROT -GR <Christine.Connell@international.gc.ca>
Sent: February 11, 2022 1:23 PM
To: Maron, Stefano -WSHDC -WS <Stefano.Maron@international.gc.ca>
Subject: RE: RELEASE: U.S. Rep. Lawrence Statement on Ambassador Bridge Blockade

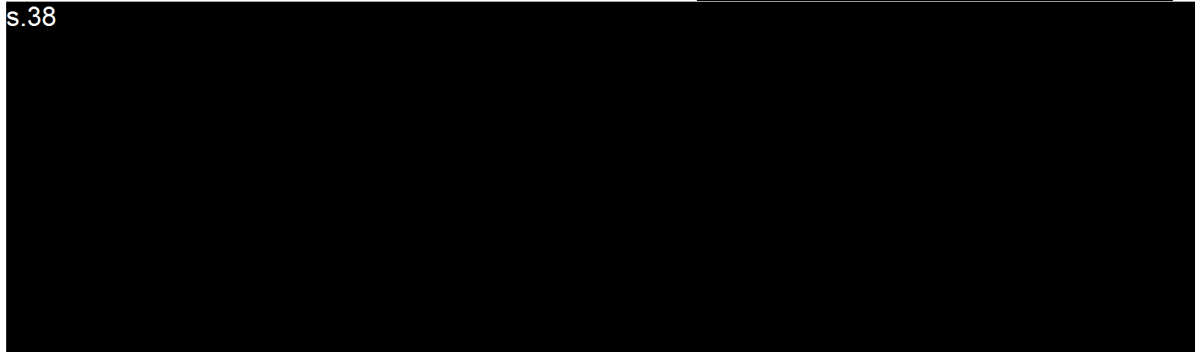
Yep, I think Dingell is satisfied. We will supply some follow-up in the hopes her tone will become more positive on social media.

DTROT HoM is off starting at noon today but I can still check with him about Senator Brown. He usually does not take meetings with staff, but perhaps given that it is Sen Brown's office he will make an exception. I will follow-up with you shortly.

Here is the flash readout for you on Rep. Lawrence. As you know she still wants a meeting with AMB. Given that the bridge is in her district this might be advisable. By then she may have more to share about interaction with the Teamsters Union.

February 11, 2022: DTROT HoM/Comartin, accompanied by FPDS/Connell, conducted a meeting at the request of **Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence (D-MI-14)** whose district includes the Ambassador Bridge and Detroit-Windsor Tunnel. Rep. Lawrence reiterated the sentiments expressed in a [press release](#) issued by her office the previous afternoon. Just as the call began news broke that protesters have agreed to open one lane of traffic from US into Canada (although it was not clear when that would happen). HoM/Comartin assured that all levels of government are working together and across party lines to get the border reopened. s.38

s.38



From: Maron, Stefano -WSHDC -WS <Stefano.Maron@international.gc.ca>
Sent: February 11, 2022 1:00 PM
To: Connell, Christine -DTROT -GR <Christine.Connell@international.gc.ca>
Subject: RE: RELEASE: U.S. Rep. Lawrence Statement on Ambassador Bridge Blockade

The Amb's call with Rep. Dingell is off – the times didn't work, and I think Dingell was satisfied with the discussion she had with CG Comartin.

We received a request from Senator Sherrod Brown's staff for a call to discuss the latest at the border. I think they're just trying to get a sitrep. Brown is an important contact for us, so we wanted to offer DHOM/Loken, but it looks like he might not be able to take it. Would DTROT HOM want to / be available? (It would be staff level.) They've offered 3:30 or 4 pm but I'm sure if we offer the CG their schedules would open up ☺.

From: Maron, Stefano -WSHDC -WS
Sent: February 11, 2022 12:32 PM
To: Connell, Christine -DTROT -GR <Christine.Connell@international.gc.ca>
Subject: RE: RELEASE: U.S. Rep. Lawrence Statement on Ambassador Bridge Blockade

Great, super helpful. Thank you.

From: Connell, Christine -DTROT -GR <Christine.Connell@international.gc.ca>
Sent: February 11, 2022 12:31 PM
To: Maron, Stefano -WSHDC -WS <Stefano.Maron@international.gc.ca>
Subject: RE: RELEASE: U.S. Rep. Lawrence Statement on Ambassador Bridge Blockade

Yes. Dingell and Comartin have a good relationship, having met casually at various local events. In fact they just spoke.

I was not on the call but HoM relays to me that they had a short amicable call today at noon in which they discussed s.38

s.38

Beyond that the information in Quorum is current.

If Dingell and HOM meet you may want to consult her Twitter feed @RepDebDingell for her sentiments.

P.S. readout for Rep Lawrence is forthcoming. She was emphatic about speaking with Amb Hillman.

From: Maron, Stefano -WSHDC -WS <Stefano.Maron@international.gc.ca>
Sent: February 11, 2022 11:54 AM
To: Connell, Christine -DTROT -GR <Christine.Connell@international.gc.ca>
Subject: RE: RELEASE: U.S. Rep. Lawrence Statement on Ambassador Bridge Blockade

Just want to confirm if CG Comartin has had recent integrations with Rep Dingell. (Don't see any in Quorum but I know you said they have a good relationship).

From: Maron, Stefano -WSHDC -WS <Stefano.Maron@international.gc.ca>
Sent: February 11, 2022 10:44 AM
To: Connell, Christine -DTROT -GR <Christine.Connell@international.gc.ca>
Subject: Re: RELEASE: U.S. Rep. Lawrence Statement on Ambassador Bridge Blockade

One more favour: would you happen to have a recent bio of Dingell handy? No worries if not, I can put one together — just thought I'd ask.

It looks like our HOM might be able to take that call today.

On Feb 11, 2022, at 10:14 AM, Maron, Stefano -WSHDC -WS <Stefano.Maron@international.gc.ca> wrote:

Thanks so much.

From: Connell, Christine -DTROT -GR <Christine.Connell@international.gc.ca>
Sent: February 11, 2022 10:14 AM
To: Maron, Stefano -WSHDC -WS <Stefano.Maron@international.gc.ca>
Subject: RE: RELEASE: U.S. Rep. Lawrence Statement on Ambassador Bridge Blockade

Attached ISED report is not for public distribution—we did suggest that they so mark these in future.

Detroit Media roundup as of this AM is also attached.

From: Maron, Stefano -WSHDC -WS <Stefano.Maron@international.gc.ca>
Sent: February 11, 2022 10:09 AM
To: Connell, Christine -DTROT -GR <Christine.Connell@international.gc.ca>
Subject: RE: RELEASE: U.S. Rep. Lawrence Statement on Ambassador Bridge Blockade

Great, thanks and will do! I'd definitely be interested in the roundup and the ISED report if you're able to share.

Thank you,
Stefano

From: Connell, Christine -DTROT -GR <Christine.Connell@international.gc.ca>
Sent: February 11, 2022 10:05 AM
To: Maron, Stefano -WSHDC -WS <Stefano.Maron@international.gc.ca>
Subject: RE: RELEASE: U.S. Rep. Lawrence Statement on Ambassador Bridge Blockade

Thanks!

Please let me know how I might support the meetings if they fall to DHOM today.
I shared a local media roundup with Pam this morning if of use to you for reference in engaging with MI stakeholders.

There is also a Do Not Distribute ISED report on auto sector impacts --if you have interest/have not seen.

From: Maron, Stefano -WSHDC -WS <Stefano.Maron@international.gc.ca>
Sent: February 11, 2022 9:55 AM
To: Connell, Christine -DTROT -GR <Christine.Connell@international.gc.ca>
Subject: RE: RELEASE: U.S. Rep. Lawrence Statement on Ambassador Bridge Blockade

FYI – here are the lines we used for yesterday's call with Kildee:

Introductory

- Appreciate the opportunity to connect. Understand the direct impact the blockades have on your district. It is imperative that we work in lockstep to mitigate further impacts.
- As you know, the Ambassador bridge is a critical link in our supply chain and our government is fully engaged on finding a solution as quickly as possible.
- We are coordinating closely with the Administration, CBP and other agencies to share intelligence and prevent similar events from replicating on the U.S. side.

Ambassador Bridge

- While the GoC has made it clear that we support freedom of expression and assembly, we are deeply concerned by the closure of the Ambassador Bridge, and the impact that is having on industry and travellers.
- Ensuring that essential consumer goods reach Canadian households as efficiently as possible, and that food, medicine and other critical supplies are accessible to all who need them, is of the utmost priority for the Government of Canada.
- Canada is in regular contact with U.S. agencies like CBP to share any intelligence that would be helpful in preventing similar situations from occurring in the U.S.
- We are also working side-by-side with the U.S. Administration.
 - Our Minister of Transport spoke with Secretary Buttigieg this afternoon.
 - Our Public Safety Minister will be speaking with Secretary Mayorkas as well.
- CBSA is working collaboratively with law enforcement partners to restore normal border operations at affected ports of entry as quickly as possible.
- Until further notice, we are encouraging travellers to consider alternate ports of entry to cross the border, such as the [Windsor-Detroit Tunnel](#) for regular travellers and the [Sarnia/Port Huron \(Blue Water Bridge\)](#) for commercial traffic.
- CBSA is prepared to allocate resources and adjust staffing levels at alternate ports of entry to minimize processing times and potential delays.
- IF NEEDED: I understand Windsor's Mayor, Drew Dilkens, was seeking approval from the courts this afternoon for an injunction against the protesters, which would enable law enforcement to remove them if they refuse to leave on their own.

RESPONSIVE – Vaccine Mandates

- Canada and the U.S. are working closely together to protect our citizens and are aligned in our vaccine mandates at the Canada-U.S. border.
- The vaccine mandate for truckers that came into effect in October has helped protect transportation workers from the impacts of Omicron. This has helped protect supply chains from being disrupted by ensuring safer workplaces and a more resilient workforce.
- The majority of truckers have made the right choice and are vaccinated. They are essential to keeping our supply chains moving – and they are doing so each and every day. [Ministers have used the 90% vaccination rate stat.]

From: Maron, Stefano -WSHDC -WS
Sent: February 11, 2022 9:52 AM

To: Connell, Christine -DTROT -GR <Christine.Connell@international.gc.ca>
Subject: RE: RELEASE: U.S. Rep. Lawrence Statement on Ambassador Bridge Blockade

Please go ahead with the CG call and let them know that we would be happy to explore options with the Embassy afterwards if the Congresswoman would like.

From: Connell, Christine -DTROT -GR <Christine.Connell@international.gc.ca>
Sent: February 11, 2022 9:33 AM
To: Maron, Stefano -WSHDC -WS <Stefano.Maron@international.gc.ca>
Subject: FW: RELEASE: U.S. Rep. Lawrence Statement on Ambassador Bridge Blockade

Hi Stefano—See below. How would you like to proceed? We're flexible. ~Christine

From: Kashat, Delia <Delia.Kashat@mail.house.gov>
Sent: February 11, 2022 9:30 AM
To: Connell, Christine -DTROT -GR <Christine.Connell@international.gc.ca>
Cc: Chase, Veronica <Veronica.Chase@mail.house.gov>; Kahassai, Merone (MI14) <Merone.Kahassai@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Re: RELEASE: U.S. Rep. Lawrence Statement on Ambassador Bridge Blockade

Good morning Christine,

That's fine. The Congresswoman will take the meeting this morning. However, it is critical that she meets with the Ambassador in Washington to understand what the Canadian government is doing to resolve this matter. It is important to note that the Ambassador Bridge is in the Congresswoman's district and she has heard from our stakeholders about the impacts of this blockade. Please reconnect with folks back in DC to see when we can get this follow up meeting scheduled. Thank you.

On Feb 11, 2022, at 9:13 AM, Kahassai, Merone (MI14) <Merone.Kahassai@mail.house.gov> wrote:

Hello,

Rep. Lawrence is available at 10:20 am. Do you all have a dial in for this call?

Merone Kahassai (she/her/hers)
Executive Assistant/Scheduler
Congresswoman Brenda L. Lawrence (MI-14)
Phone: (202) 225-5802 | Fax: (202) 226-2356

From: Christine.Connell@international.gc.ca <Christine.Connell@international.gc.ca>
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2022 8:43 AM
To: Kashat, Delia <Delia.Kashat@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Kahassai, Merone (MI14) <Merone.Kahassai@mail.house.gov>; Chase, Veronica <Veronica.Chase@mail.house.gov>
Subject: RE: RELEASE: U.S. Rep. Lawrence Statement on Ambassador Bridge Blockade

Hi Delia,

Your request to Pauline Walsh for a meeting with Ambassador Hillman has been forwarded to the Consulate General of Canada in Detroit, due to Ambassador's unavailability today.

Consul General Comartin is available any time after 9:30 a.m. until 11 a.m. If you wish to schedule a call please let me know.

Best regards, Christine

Christine Connell
Public Affairs Officer | Agente des affaires publiques
Consulate General of Canada – Detroit | Consulate général du Canada - Detroit

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du Canada

From: Kashat, Delia <Delia.Kashat@mail.house.gov>

Sent: February 10, 2022 3:41 PM

To: Kashat, Delia <Delia.Kashat@mail.house.gov>

Subject: FW: RELEASE: U.S. Rep. Lawrence Statement on Ambassador Bridge Blockade

Colleagues – FYI on the below statement from Congresswoman Lawrence regarding the blockade on the Ambassador Bridge. Thank you.

Delia Kashat
Office of U.S. Representative Brenda L. Lawrence (MI-14)

From: Sibulo, Cody <Cody.Sibulo@mail.house.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2022 3:23 PM

To: Sibulo, Cody <Cody.Sibulo@mail.house.gov>

Subject: RELEASE: U.S. Rep. Lawrence Statement on Ambassador Bridge Blockade



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday, February 10, 2021

CONTACT: Cody Sibulo, Communications Director

Cell: (818) 397-8249

U.S. Rep. Lawrence Statement on Ambassador Bridge Blockade

Detroit, MI - Today, U.S. Representative Brenda L. Lawrence (MI-14) issued the following statement regarding the blockade on Ambassador Bridge.

“As the representative of the district that includes the Detroit side of the Ambassador Bridge, I stand firmly in saying full, regular travel needs to resume on the bridge. Michiganders, especially Detroiters, are uniquely aware that the Ambassador Bridge is the largest access point of international trade and commerce in North America, accounting for a quarter of all trade between the U.S. and Canada. The blockade is harming Michigan families, workers, small businesses, and manufacturers, especially at a time when our supply chain is so fragile. We’re seeing the ripple effects right now in our communities with shifts being cut short and further hardships being put on hard-working families.

“I support peaceful protests and demonstrations. However, I’m concerned about the essential workforce that travels between the U.S. and Canada; emergency access for truck drivers and emergency personnel; and the delay of life-saving pharmaceutical drugs and other critical goods and services. I strongly urge our national and provincial Canadian leaders to reach a safe and quick resolution that allows for seamless commerce to continue on the Ambassador Bridge.”

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